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SIXTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PHILADELPHIA

FEMALE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

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PHILADELPHIA :

MERRIHEW AND THOMPSON, PRINTERS,

No. 7 Carter's Alley.

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ANNUAL REPORT.

THE year 1849 has been a most eventful period. It is one which will be long remembered in the annals of modern times. Remembered, not as a constructive period, not as an era in which great thoughts and lofty aspirations embodied themselves in well digested and wisely arranged schemes of social organization and civil government; but as a year of desperate and deadly conflict between two mighty principles, which have ever been struggling for mastery on this earth—Despotism and Freedom. It will be remembered as a year when to the Spirit of Liberty was given a new birth and a new baptism; and though that birth was amidst death-agonies, and that baptism in blood, she will still be hailed and crowned as heaven-descended. Amid the fierceness of the conflict and the din of battle, the shouts of the seeming victors and the wail of the despairing vanquished, it is not easy to estimate, accurately, what has been lost or won on either side; but it is plainly discernible that a determined hostility to Despotism, a longing and a love for Freedom, have been awakened from their long slumber in the hearts of the nations of the old world. Rude, uncouth, unschooled in christian philosophy, but, nevertheless, genuine and indomitable.

Thus are the revelations of the year 1849 prophetic

of the years to come. The period of agitation, of revolution, of destruction, must be followed by one of new creations, of harmony, of order; and the christian philosopher, who looks far below the turbulent surface of this great deep of human passion, watching its calm, unfailing springs, sees a spirit moving there, whose irresistible might shall guide, and ultimately allay, the tempest, bringing, in its stead, the calm of true peace. A long time may elapse ere this prophetic vision shall become real; the reign of anarchy, disorder and violence may be long; but not the less certain, because it is slow, is the triumph of Right over Might, of Truth over Falsehood, of Love over Selfishness; and with undoubting faith may we expect to see this conflict, wildly begun with unchristian weapons, gloriously consummated,

“With those mild arms of Truth and Love,
Made mighty through the living God.”

Though the scene of this struggle is on another continent, its influence extends over our own. The American nation is watching it with alternate hope and fear; now joining in the exulting shout of the victor, now weeping with the vanquished champion of Freedom. Already, in her burning indignation at the Austrian tyrant, she is proposing to refuse him a ministerial representation of the model republic at his court. It cannot be that that stupendous system of despotism, American slavery, can wholly escape the moral influence of such revolutions. They who are applauding successful resistance to tyrants on the soil of Europe, may,

for a while, forget the "Greeks at their own door;" in the echo of their shouts, the wail of their own bondmen may not reach their ears; but in the calmer hour which will succeed their exultation, the thought must come that their principles are as truly applicable at home as abroad; that if "resistance to tyrants is obedience to God," in one hemisphere, it can be no great sin in the other; and that if the struggling, defeated Magyar deserves the deepest sympathy of every noble soul, the American slave, striving to cast off his more galling bonds, is worthy of a better fate than that which the laws of this freedom-loving nation award him.

Thus, in the grand events of the past year, do we read predictions of good to the slave, and blessing to our country. The Old World, having learned lessons of liberty from the New, is reciprocating the benefit, and teaching her teacher. We trust, we believe, that the lesson will not be given in vain.

Much, during the past year, has, also, been accomplished in our own land for the cause of Freedom. Sixteen years ago, when abolitionists were asked, "What is your plan for abolishing slavery?" they answered that their plan was to change public sentiment on the subject, so that the system should be regarded in its true character, and instead of being advocated and excused, in church and state, it should be abhorred and shunned as "the sum of all villainies." They said that their plan was to arouse this nation's conscience, and interest its heart, in behalf of the abolition of slavery. Now they may confidently appeal to the public to decide

whether or not their plan was an enthusiast's dream, an impracticable theory. This whole nation is aroused to the consideration and discussion of this one topic; around it their hopes and fears revolve; there is no assembly too august or too insignificant for its admission, no individual who identifies himself with his country, to whom it is not a subject of painful anxiety. It is a topic of earnest conversation and discussion in the social circle and by the wayside, in the school and the lyceum, and the church; it agitates the legislatures of our free and our slaveholding states; it has taken entire possession of Congress, and every question, however trifling, which has, or can be made to have, the slightest connection with it, is there decided with reference to it. The results of sixteen years of anti-slavery labor are written all around us so legibly that even the purblind scoffer and the obstinate bigot cannot fail to read them.

This mighty change in public sentiment, this universal awakening of a great nation to a consciousness of danger, to some perception of responsibility and duty, in reference to this gigantic sin, has been effected simply by the dissemination of anti-slavery truth; by its utterance with the lips, through the pen, in public, in private, by the fireside, in the street, from the pulpit and the platform, at the bar, in the hall of legislation, at all times and all places, in season and out of season, here a little and there a little. And herein is proved, once more, the profound philosophy of the theory, that moral evil is to be resisted and destroyed by the preaching of the truth.

In reviewing the share of labor for the accomplishment of these great results, which this Society has performed during the past year, we find evidence that it has not existed in vain. That department of its operations which is most attractive and interesting to the public, is its annual Fair. As a pecuniary instrumentality, this is very important to the anti-slavery enterprise of Pennsylvania, and it is also valuable for its moral influences. Ever conducted with scrupulous regard to the dignity of the cause it is designed to promote, it has not been liable to many objections which are preferred against Bazaars generally, and even the fastidious could rarely find in it reason for complaint. It has, this year, been remarkably successful, as the Report of the Committee of Arrangements will show.

Another Fair, the proceeds of which were appropriated to the North Star, has also been held in this city, in which several of our members were actively engaged. It, also, was quite successful, pecuniarily, and exerted, we doubt not, a powerful influence in removing that unchristian prejudice against our colored population, which, lamentably, prevails in the community.

In the months of April and May, the Society secured the services of Lucy Stone, of Massachusetts, as a lecturer, in the city and adjacent county. During the short time she was in our employ, she lectured in Ken-
 nett, Marlborough, Wilmington, Norristown, Germantown, Providence, Edgemont, Byberry, Newtown and Philadelphia. We have reason to believe that her labors were beneficial to our cause.

Our Society has, as usual, appropriated a portion of its funds to the extensive circulation of anti-slavery papers. It has circulated one hundred copies of the Pennsylvania Freeman, ten copies of the National Anti-Slavery Standard, ten of the Liberator, and five of the Louisville Examiner.

The school for colored girls, which has, during several years past, received aid from this Society, and which has been noticed in previous reports, is much diminished in size, and has been removed from the room which it formerly occupied. On account of the diminution in the number of scholars in attendance upon it, and the great demand for money to supply the general wants of the anti-slavery enterprise in Pennsylvania, this Society have, during the last year, deemed it expedient to withdraw from it their accustomed contributions. The school is still continued, is conducted with ability, and is of great value to the class of persons for whose benefit it was instituted, though we fear it is not justly appreciated by them.

The Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society has not forgotten to bear its decided testimony against the purchase and use of the products of slave labor. In their instructions to their Fair Committee to avoid such purchases in their preparations for the Fair, in a resolution passed by them in May last, to devote one-half the profits obtained from the English contributions to the Free Produce cause, they have expressed their conviction of the importance of this department of our enterprise.

Eighteen hundred and forty-nine will be remembered by abolitionists as the year which terminated the existence of the Liberty Party. Its rise, decline and fall stretches over a period of somewhat less than ten years, and its history is interesting and instructive. At its origin it was based, ostensibly, at least, on purely anti-slavery principles, and one of its fundamental laws required that all its candidates for office should be true abolitionists. So stringent was it, in this respect, that John Quincy Adams and Joshua R. Giddings were not deemed worthy of its votes. Some of the men who called the party into existence, and some who rallied around its standard, doubtless regarded it as a necessary and powerful instrumentality in the work of abolishing slavery. They trusted in it as their "staff of accomplishment," and confidently believed that it would work wonders which moral power alone could never perform. At first, its votes were little else than recorded testimonies against slavery, for they were too few even to annoy the other political parties. But the party grew in numerical strength, that *sine qua non* of political success, and the prospect of influencing the elections was too tempting to be foregone; they took lessons of their predecessors, and made "availability" an important consideration in the selection of their candidate. This was the first downward step of the *party*. Having verified, to their own satisfaction, the oft-proved assertion, that the power of a political party is in proportion to its numbers, they made a still further concession of their fundamental principles, and descended, by

one long step, from the Liberty to the Free Soil party. From this lower and broader platform, a still further decline was reasonably anticipated, but the community was not prepared for the event of its entire absorption into the Democratic party, which they have witnessed during the past year. Thus has ended the effort to abolish slavery by means of a political organization based upon the Constitution of the United States; thus has terminated a systematized and energetic attempt to unite allegiance to that Constitution, with practical opposition to some of its provisions. But the future historian of this party will have occasion to make honorable mention of many of its members, who, at different stages of its decline, shook off the dust of their feet against it, refusing to walk further with it on its downward course. Some of these, it is hoped, have returned to their first love and their early faith, which taught them to rely upon such measures as "the opposition of moral purity to moral corruption, and the destruction of error by the potency of truth."

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This history is fraught with instructive lessons to us. It increases our confidence in the weapons with which we are waging this warfare; it confirms our faith in the efficacy of that "foolishness of preaching," at which the statesman, the politician and the worldling sneer. Its warning voice is ever in our ears, bidding us beware how we put our trust in an arm of flesh, and rely on physical force as a remedy for moral evil. At this stage of our enterprise, we should be inexcusable if our faith, our zeal, or our courage were to decline. All

around us are the evidences of the success of our labors, the triumph of our principles. Never, since the early period of christianity, did so mighty a reform progress so rapidly. Faith in its inherent principles taught us that everything which opposed it was doomed to be vanquished in the conflict, but now our faith is partly turned to sight. We have *seen* how one can "chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight."

But, in our exultation over what has been accomplished, we do not forget that our work is not yet done. We do not, forget that, to-day, while the refugees from Austria's tyranny are being welcomed to the hospitality and honors of this city, two noble men are lying in one of our national prisons, expiating the same crime as that which banished those illustrious Europeans from their country. The Hungarian refugees loved liberty, believed it to be every man's birthright, and, acting in accordance with their belief, sought to obtain it for themselves and their countrymen, and Austria decreed them a felon's doom. Captains Drayton and Sayres also loved liberty, and believed that it is every man's birthright, and they, too, sought, though not by violence, to obtain it for those from whom it had been unjustly wrested; and the United States thrust them into her dungeons, and branded them before the world as criminals. Should they be so fortunate as to escape to Europe, doubtless Austria would welcome and honor our refugees as we do hers.

These things, and such as these, remind us that our country is not yet cleansed from the foul stain which

disgraces her in the eyes of all Christendom. And other monitors have we that our work is not yet done. Three millions of slaves yet wear their chains, and though we trust that the hour of their enfranchisement is not far off, the days, to them, long and wearisome, which must intervene, urge us to quickened zeal and more energetic action in their behalf. Our toils are light, our sacrifices trifling, in comparison with the burden which they daily bear.

We enter upon the new year, confident that we are not laboring in vain, or spending our strength for nought, in full and joyful faith that the truth which we are associated to disseminate, is **LIVING**, is **MIGHTY** ; and in this faith we will continue to utter it,

Until IMMORTAL MIND,
 Unshackled, walks abroad,
 And chains no longer bind
The image of our God.
 Until no captive one
 Murmurs on land or wave ;
 And, in his course, the sun
 Looks down upon no **SLAVE** !

REPORT

OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE FOURTEENTH PENNSYLVANIA ANTI-SLAVERY FAIR.

The fair was held in the large saloon of the Assembly Buildings, on the 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st and 22d of December.

The Receipts were	\$1576 86
Expenses “	350 60
	<hr/>
Balance	\$1226 26

The Committee gratefully report the accomplishment of their work, the pecuniary results of which are stated above. The attending circumstances,—public interest, social intercourse and reunions, high-toned meetings for addresses and discussions—make the sum total of good beyond estimate or calculation.

As for years past, the labors of the friends in our vicinity cheered our hearts and added to the value of the fair.

Bristol, Norristown, Byberry, Darby, Merion, Kennett and Marlborough furnished tables, with beautiful and valuable articles; liberal donations were received from our city friends whose aid has been given for many years, and also from a number whose ‘first fruits’ give promise of future abundance.

Harrisburg, Milton, Isabella Furnace, Schuylkill, Radnor, Lawrenceville, Pottstown, Norristown, Germantown, Wakefield, Yardleyville, Mullica Hill and Salem, failed not in their ever welcome supplies.

We received with particular pleasure donations from absent members of our committee ; beautiful needle work from one in New York, a box containing the work of a 'Circle' created by the active interest of one removed to Connecticut, also elegant articles from Paris testifying that in illness and absence the claims of the slave are remembered and allowed.

From New York, Boston, Nantucket and Pawtucket very valuable donations were received.

Early in last year, letters were written to the friends of the slave in Great Britain in the hope of receiving goods from them that would render our Fair particularly attractive. Contributions were received from many kind and energetic friends testifying that the claims of the slave were felt and acknowledged.

An additional box sent from London was not received till the fair was closed.

We owe an apology to our friends, who were disappointed by the late arrival of the articles from Paris by a liberal contributor to our Fair. So confidently were they expected, that we hesitated not to announce them, but unexpected and unusual circumstances delayed their reception.

On behalf of the committee,

SARAH PUGH,
ANNA M. HOPPER,
JENNETTE JACKSON,
ANNA M. CHILD.

Philadelphia, January 9th, 1849.

*Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society in account with
Anna M. Hopper, Treasurer.*

1849	DR.	
	To Donations to Penna. A. S. Society,	\$920 00
	" " American do.	50 00
	" " in aid of S. M. Douglass' school,	90 00
	" Subscription to Pa. Freeman. 100 copies,	100 00
	" " Liberator, 10 "	20 00
	" " Nat. A. S. Standard, 10 "	20 00
	" " Louisville Examiner, 5 "	10 00
	" Printing Annual Report,	14 70
	" Cash paid Lucy Stone for lecturing, &c.,	42 72
	" Rent of rooms for meetings, advertising, &c.	33 75
1850		
	Balance on hand,	36 37
		<hr/> \$1337 54

1849	CR.	
	By Balance in Treasury,	\$26 09
	" Proceeds of Fair of 1848,	992 45
	" Sale of French Fancy goods,	175 62
	" Dividend on Penna. Hall Stock,	40 00
	" Subscriptions, donations, &c.,	89 00
	" Collections at meetings for Lucy Stone,	14 38
		<hr/> \$1337 54

JENNETTE JACKSON, }
REBECCA PLUMLY, } Auditors.

OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

PRESIDENT.

SARAH PUGH.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

SARAH A. McKIM.

RECORDING SECRETARY.

MARGARET JONES.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

MARY GREW.

TREASURER.

ANNA M. HOPPER.

MANAGERS.

LUCRETIA MOTT,
MARGARET GRISCOM,
SARAH DOUGLASS,

AMY MATILDA CASSEY,
HESTER RECKLESS,
HULDAH JUSTICE.

CONSTITUTION
OF THE PHILADELPHIA
FEMALE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

WHEREAS, more than two millions of our fellow countrymen, of these United States, are held in abject bondage; and whereas, we believe that slavery and prejudice against color are contrary to the laws of God, and to the principles of our far-famed declaration of Independence, and recognising the right of the slave to immediate emancipation; we deem it our duty to manifest our abhorrence of the flagrant injustice and deep sin of slavery, by united and vigorous exertions for its speedy removal, and for the restoration of the people of color to their inalienable rights. For these purposes, we the undersigned agree to associate ourselves under the name of "THE PHILADELPHIA FEMALE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY."

ARTICLE I.

The object of this Society shall be to collect and disseminate correct information of the character of slavery, and of the actual condition of the slaves and free people of color, for the purpose of inducing the community to adopt such measures, as may be in their power, to dispel the prejudice against the people of color, to improve their condition, and to bring about the speedy abolition of slavery.

ARTICLE II.

Any female uniting in these view, and contributing to the funds, shall be a member of the Society.

ARTICLE III.

The officers of the Society shall be a President, a Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, and Librarian, who, with six other members, shall constitute a Board of Managers. They shall keep a record of their proceedings, which shall be laid before the Society at its stated meetings. They shall have power to fill any vacancy that may occur in their number, till the next annual meeting.

ARTICLE IV.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society, and shall have power to call special meetings of the Society, and of the Board.

ARTICLE V.

The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in her absence.

ARTICLE VI.

The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of the transactions of the Society, and notify all meetings of the Society.

ARTICLE VII.

The Corresponding Secretary shall keep all communications addressed to the Society, and manage all the correspondence with any other bodies or individuals, according to the directions of the Society or of the Managers.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Treasurer shall collect the subscriptions and grants to the Society, make payments according to its directions, and those of its Managers, and present an audited report at each annual meeting.

ARTICLE IX.

The Librarian shall take charge of all books and pamphlets belonging to the Society, and conform to the rules prescribed by the Society, for the management of the library.

ARTICLE X.

Stated meetings of the Society shall be held on the second Fifth-day in every month, excepting the Seventh and Eighth months, (July and August.)

ARTICLE XI.

The annual meeting shall be held on the second Fifth day, (Thursday,) of the First month, (January,) at which time the reports of the Board and Treasurer shall be presented, and the officers for the ensuing year elected.

ARTICLE XII.

It is especially recommended that the members of this Society should entirely abstain from purchasing the products of slave labor, that we may be able consistently to plead the cause of our brethren in bonds.

ARTICLE XIII.

This constitution may be altered at any stated meeting by the vote of two-thirds of the members present, notice having been given at a previous meeting.

The following shall take effect on the first day of January, 1901, and shall remain in force until the first day of January, 1902, when they shall expire unless renewed by the Legislature.

ARTICLE V

It is the policy of the State to encourage the growth of the cotton industry, and to that end to provide for the establishment of a cotton seed bank.

ARTICLE VI

The following shall take effect on the first day of January, 1901, and shall remain in force until the first day of January, 1902, when they shall expire unless renewed by the Legislature.

ARTICLE VII

It is the policy of the State to encourage the growth of the cotton industry, and to that end to provide for the establishment of a cotton seed bank.

ARTICLE VIII

The following shall take effect on the first day of January, 1901, and shall remain in force until the first day of January, 1902, when they shall expire unless renewed by the Legislature.

ARTICLE IX

The following shall take effect on the first day of January, 1901, and shall remain in force until the first day of January, 1902, when they shall expire unless renewed by the Legislature.

ARTICLE X

The following shall take effect on the first day of January, 1901, and shall remain in force until the first day of January, 1902, when they shall expire unless renewed by the Legislature.

ARTICLE XI

The following shall take effect on the first day of January, 1901, and shall remain in force until the first day of January, 1902, when they shall expire unless renewed by the Legislature.